5 The barrister

Before you watch

1 You are going to watch an interview with Mike, a barrister. Work in groups and write some questions that you would like to hear answered about a barrister’s job.

2 Tick the places (a–e) you think you will see in the programme.
   a) a wig shop
   b) inside a court
   c) a barrister’s chamber
   d) a police station
   e) inside a pub

While you watch

3 Put the interviewer’s questions (a–k) in the correct order.
   a) What does the job entail?
   b) What kind of law do you specialise in?
   c) What clothes do you have to wear for work?
   d) What’s the difference between a barrister and a solicitor?
   e) What do you like and dislike about your job?
   f) How do you become a barrister?
   g) What does a barrister do?
   h) Tell me about the clothes you have to wear to court.
   i) Why did you choose criminal law?
   j) Tell us about some of the traditions of the Law Courts.
   k) Who’s been one of your favourite clients and why?
4 Work with a partner. How many of Mike’s answers can you remember?

5 Watch the programme again and decide whether these statements (a–h) are true or false.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) The solicitor prepares the case then the barrister presents it to the judge.</td>
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<td>b) Criminal defence lawyers deal with divorce cases.</td>
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<td>c) To become a lawyer you have to take a degree in law.</td>
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<td>d) To become a barrister you have to do an apprenticeship called <strong>pupillage</strong>.</td>
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<td>e) Criminal defence lawyers sometimes go to prison.</td>
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<td>f) Three hundred years ago upper-class gentlemen wore wigs.</td>
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<td>g) Women barristers wear wigs.</td>
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<td>h) The barrister’s gown has a pocket to keep his/her brief in.</td>
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<td>i) The Temple is a place where cases are heard.</td>
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<td>j) Barristers don’t shake hands with each other as a sign of trust.</td>
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<td>k) Criminal defence papers are tied with a green ribbon.</td>
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<td>l) Mike’s favourite client was a retired policeman.</td>
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<td>m) He finds the job stressful.</td>
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<td>n) He became a barrister because he was interested in people.</td>
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6 Correct the statements in Exercise 5 which are false.

**After you watch**

7 Look back at the picture. How many items can you name?

8 Work in groups and discuss these questions (a–c).
   a) Which information in the video surprised you?
   b) Which information did you think was interesting?
   c) Which traditions do you think are useful/useless?

9 Rephrase Mike’s sentences below (a–e) using the words given in brackets.
   a) You have to do another year’s training to become a barrister.
      (required)  
      Barristers _____________________________________________________________________________
   b) I represent people who the police say have done a crime.
      (accused)  
      I represent ____________________________________________________________________________
   c) Some days I have to go to prison to see a client there.
      (necessary)  
      Occasionally __________________________________________________________________________
   d) Whenever a barrister gets a brief it’s wrapped in a ribbon.
      (received)  
      Briefs ________________________________________________________________________________
   e) When I was younger I had a strong sense of right and wrong.
      (youth)  
      In ____________________________________________________________________________________